

# 2003

# JCAHO

News, tips, info, details, and ideas brought to you by the  
Clinical Center JCAHO Work Group

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### INFECTION CONTROL: SAFEGUARDING YOUR PATIENTS AND YOURSELF!

#### ***Infection Control must be part of your daily routine.***

The goal of infection control and prevention is to identify and prevent the transmission of infections among patients, staff, and visitors. The Hospital Epidemiology Service staff is your resource for infection control issues and can be reached by calling 301-496-2209 or 24 hours a day through the page operator. The Hospital Infections Committee oversees the hospital-wide activities related to the JCAHO Standard "Surveillance, Prevention, and Control of Infections".

### INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES YOU USE EVERY DAY.

**Hand washing** is the best way to prevent the spread of infections. Use soap, running water and friction for 10-15 seconds, rinse hands with running water and dry thoroughly with a paper towel. Use the paper towel to turn off the faucet.



**Waterless agents** (alcohol hand rub) can be used as a substitute for soap and water when hands are not visibly soiled. Use one full depression of the pump and rub it over all hand surfaces and nails for 15-20 seconds until dry. Waterless agents are available in CHS and can be found throughout the Clinical Center in both pocket size and pump dispensers.

**Universal Precautions** are designed to reduce the risk of transmission of pathogens from blood, body fluids and other infectious materials and should be used for all patient care activities. Universal Precautions employs a combination of engineering controls, work practice controls, and personal protective equipment to reduce the risk of transmission of infections. Universal Precautions training is required annually.

*Are you up to date with your Universal Precaution training? If not, call HES at 6-2209.*

**Isolation Precaution** Universal Precautions is usually all that is required for the care of most patients, however some patients do need additional precautions. The isolation cart, available from Central Hospital Supply, contains additional personal protective equipment for patients on isolation. The Isolation Guidelines Flipchart is the primary resource for isolation procedures and practices. Flipcharts are located in all clinical and laboratory areas.

*Do you know the location your infection control flipchart? Did you know that it's available on the web at: <http://www2.cc.nih.gov/hes/index.html>?*

**Personal protective equipment** includes gloves, gowns, masks and protective eyewear and should be worn when exposure to blood, body fluids, or infectious materials is likely.

To ask questions of the Clinical Center Core group email: [askCCJCAHO@cc.nih.gov](mailto:askCCJCAHO@cc.nih.gov)

Personal protective equipment is available in clinical and laboratory areas or from Central Hospital Supply.

**Sharps** should be discarded into a sharps container labeled with the biohazard symbol.

- Close and secure the container when it is  $\frac{3}{4}$  full.
- Dispose of the secured sharps container in a MPW box.

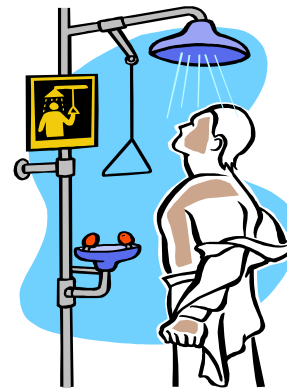
### **Tuberculosis Control**

The Tuberculosis Control Plan details three essential elements for the control of tuberculosis: Administrative Controls (annual PPD testing); Engineering Controls (negative pressure rooms); and personal respiratory protection (N95 or PAPR).

*Is it time for your PPD? If so call OMS to make an appointment or find out when walk-in appointments are available. Call 301-496-4411 for more information.*

### **Steps to follow after an occupational exposure or injury.**

- 1) Ensure patient safety.
- 2) Perform first aid immediately:
  - Wash contaminated skin with large amounts of soap and water.
  - Wash needle stick or sharp injuries with soap and water for 15 minutes.
  - Flush mucous membrane exposures with water or saline for 15 minutes.
- 3) Report immediately to OMS for evaluation and treatment. After hours page OMS through the page operator. The OMS phone number is 301-496-4411
- 4) Notify your supervisor as soon as possible



### **To obtain additional information about infection control in the Clinical Center:**

- Visit the Hospital Epidemiology website at [www.cc.nih.gov/hes](http://www.cc.nih.gov/hes)
- Refer to the infection control policies and procedures for your department.
- Call the Hospital Epidemiology Service and speak to the infection control specialist for your area.



The “new” Clinical Center JCHAO website is now ready. All the flyers and updated information will be made available there, so check back often @ <http://intranet.cc.nih.gov/od/jcaho/>

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